

Application No.: 09/763484

Docket No.: HHI-026US

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claim 1 as shown below and cancel claims 3 and 6 without prejudice or disclaimer.

1. (Currently Amended) Holding device for a flexographic printing sleeve, the holding device having at least one receiving member with a cylindrical lateral surface for mounting the printing sleeve, the receiving member being rotatable about a longitudinal axis of the printing sleeve, characterized in that

the receiving member has two or more shoulders of differing diameters and that a second, equivalent receiving member is provided, both receiving members being arranged and rotatable about the longitudinal axis,

and the receiving members with their smallest shoulders being aligned with each other,

and at least one receiving member being adjustable along the longitudinal axis to set a variable distance between both receiving members, and

an inner support sleeve to receive the sleeve, the support sleeve having air channels leading from an end face or from an inner surface of the support sleeve to an outer surface of the support sleeve.

2. (Previously Presented) Device according to claim 1, characterized in that the receiving member has toothed elements in radial or axial orientation which interface with corresponding toothed elements allocated to the sleeves.

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3. (Cancelled)

4. (Previously Presented) Device according to claim 1, characterized in that the sleeve has reinforcing elements in an inner cavity.

5. (Previously Presented) Device according to claim 1, characterized in that the support sleeve has reinforcing elements in an inner cavity.

6. (Cancelled)